

CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling distribution of content over the telecommunication network comprising:

5 adding apparatus identification information for identifying an apparatus by which the content is recorded and content identification information containing an identification code for identifying the content, to the content;

transmitting the content to the telecommunication network;

10 receiving at least one part of the content containing the apparatus identification information and the identification code over the telecommunication network;

extracting the apparatus identification information and the identification code from the received at least one part of the content;

15 judging whether the content is a legal copy or an illegal copy based on the apparatus identification information and the identification code extracted; and

stopping reception and playback of the content when the content is judged an illegal copy.

20 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the judging judges whether the content is a legal copy or an illegal copy on the basis of the combination of the apparatus identification information and identification code extracted.

3. The method according to claim 2 further comprising receiving the
25 apparatus identification information and identification code in advance,

wherein the judging judges that the content is legal copy when an combination of the apparatus identification information and the identification code received in advance is the same as an combination of the apparatus identification information and the identification code extracted, and judges an
5 illegal copy when the combinations are different.

4. The method according to claim 3 further comprising posting the received at least one part of the content on the electronic bulletin board to disclose, when the content is judged to be an legal copy by the judging.

10

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the content identification information further contains information for specifying a sender of the content, and the method further comprising requiring reception of the disclosed content on the basis of the information for specifying the sender.

15

6. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
creating the content; and
creating the identification code for uniquely identifying the content,
wherein the adding adds the identification information and the created
20 identification code, to the content as electronic watermark information.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the adding adds the identification information and the created identification code encoded in advance, to the content as electronic watermark information.

25

8. A content distribution control system over a telecommunication network comprising:

an identification information adder which adds, to the content, apparatus identification information for identifying an apparatus by which the content is recorded and content identification information containing an identification code for identifying the content to transmit to the telecommunication network;

an identification information extractor which receives at least one part of the content containing the apparatus identification information and the identification code from the identification information adder over the telecommunication network and extracts the apparatus identification information and identification code; and

a legality judging section which judges whether the content is a legal copy or an illegal copy on the basis of the apparatus identification information and identification code extracted by the identification information extractor, said legality judging section stopping reception and playback of the content when judging an illegal copy.

9. The content distribution control system according to claim 8, wherein the legality judging section judges whether the content is a legal copy or an illegal copy on the basis of the combination of the apparatus identification information and identification code extracted by the identification information extractor.

10. The content distribution control system according to claim 9, wherein the identification information adder transmits the apparatus identification information and the identification code of the content in advance

before the at least one part of the content is transmitted,

wherein the identification information extractor receives the apparatus identification information and the identification code transmitted from the identification information adder, and

5 wherein the legality judging section judges that the content is an legal copy when an combination of the apparatus identification information and the identification code received by the identification information extractor is the same as an combination of the identification code and the apparatus identification information later extracted by the identification information
10 extractor, and judges that the content is an illegal copy when the combinations are different.

11. The content distribution control system according to claim 10 further comprising an electronic bulletin board which discloses the at least one part of
15 the content when the legality judging section judges the content to be an legal copy.

12. The content distribution control system according to claim 11, wherein the content identification information further contains information for specifying a
20 sender of the content, and the system further comprising a user terminal which requires reception of the content disclosed in the bulletin board on the basis of the information for specifying the sender.

13. The content distribution control system according to claim 8 further
25 comprising:

a creating section which creates the content; and

an identification code creating section which creates the identification code that uniquely identifies the content,

5 wherein the identification information adder adds the identification information and the identification code created by the identification code creating section, to the content as electronic watermark information.

14. The content distribution control system according to claim 13, wherein the identification information adder adds the identification information and the created identification code encoded in advance, to the content as electronic watermark information.

15. A computer-executable program for controlling content distribution comprising:

15 receiving apparatus identification information for identifying an apparatus by which the content is recorded and identification code for identifying the content;

extracting the apparatus identification information and the identification code from the received content;

20 judging whether the content is a legal copy or an illegal copy based on the apparatus identification information and the identification code extracted; and

stopping reception and playback of the content when the content is judged an illegal copy.

16. The computer-executable program according to claim 15, wherein the judging judges whether the content is a legal copy or an illegal copy on the basis of the combination of the apparatus identification information and identification code extracted.

5

17. The computer-executable program according to claim 16 further comprising receiving the apparatus identification information and identification code in advance,

wherein the judging judges that the content is legal copy when an
10 combination of the apparatus identification information and the identification code received in advance is the same as an combination of the apparatus identification information and the identification code extracted, and judges an illegal copy when the combinations are different.

15 18. The computer-executable program according to claim 17 further comprising posting the received at least one part of the content on the electronic bulletin board to disclose, when the content is judged to be an legal copy by the judging.

20 19. The computer-executable program according to claim 15, wherein the extracting decodes and extracts the apparatus identification information and the identification code when the apparatus identification information and the identification code are encoded.

25 20. A recording medium that has recorded the computer-executable program

according to claim 15.